

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 /063 W

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P 240707Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4023

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

COMIPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3362

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON IMMEDIATE 24 MAR 75 REPEATED:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 201

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON THE MR3 REGULAR WEEKLY BRIEFING AT 0830, MAR 24, AND MY CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING WITH THE MR3 COMMANDER LTG TOAN. VERY HEAVY FIGHTING, INCLUDING TANK ENGAGEMENTS, CONTINUES ALONG LTL-26 IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. THERE ARE NO MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

2. NVA/VC DETERMINED ATTACKS ALONG LTL-26 ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THROUGH TO CUT THE ROAD TO TAY NINH (ROUTE 22) HAVE CONTINUED SINCE MARCH 23 WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH NVA DIV ATTACKING THE DEFENDING 7TH ARVN REGT SUPPORTED BY THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE.
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THE 3RD BN OF THE 7TH REGT AT TRUONG MIT CAME UNDER PARTICUL-

ARLY INTENSE PRESSURE MAR 23 AT TRUONG MIT. THE 2ND BN OF THE 7TH WAS UNDER HEAVIEST PRESSURE ON THE MORNING OF MAR 24 NEAR KHIEM THANH AND HAD FALLEN BACK TO THAT DISTRICT TOWN. MRE HQ BRIEFERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GVN HAD TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT HEAVY CASUALTIES HAD ALSO BEEN INFLICTED ON THE NVA SIDE. GEN TOAN WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE NVA HAD TAKEN EVEN GREATER CASUALTIES THAN HIS FORCES. AS THIS REPORT IS PREPARED, GVN FORCES APPEAR TO BE HOLDING THE LTL-26 DEFENSE LINE UNDER CONTINUING HEAVY PRESSURE.

3. THE BELIEF IN MR3 HQ IS THAT NVA/VC FORCES IN LONG KHANH ARE REGROUPING FOR THE NEXT SERIES OF ATTACKS WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE AGAINST KIEM TAN ON ROUTE 20 IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND HAVE AS THEIR NEXT ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF XUAN LOC.

4. GEN TOAN TOLD ME THAT 250 MEN EACH FROM THE 2ND AND 3RD BNS OF THE 43RD REGT, WHICH WERE WITHDRAWN FROM DINH QUAN AND JOAI DUC, RESPECTIVELY, HAD REACHED GOVERNMENT LINES. ANOTHER 150 RF/PF TROOPS WERE EXTRACTED FROM THE HOAI DUC AREA.

5. JGS HAS REDUCED MR3 AIR SORTIES FROM 80 TO 70.

6. ON MARCH 23 BIEN HOA ENJOYED ITS FRIST DAY WITHOUT ROCKET ATTACK FOR TWO WEEKS. TWO ROUNDS STRUCK BIEN HOA AIR BASE AT 0255 MAR 24 DESTROYING SOME CHEMICALS IN A STORAGE AREA BUT WITHOUT CASUALTIES.

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UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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